

From: Stevenson, Allan (DPH) </O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ALLAN.STEVENSON>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 10:30 AM
To: Hanchett, James (DPH) <James.Hanchett@MassMail.State.MA.US>; Salem, Sharon (DPH) <Sharon.Salem@MassMail.State.MA.US>; Farak, Sonja (DPH) <Sonja.Farak@MassMail.State.MA.US>; Pontes, Rebecca (DPH) <Rebecca.Pontes@MassMail.State.MA.US>
Subject: FW: review of meeting with Rep. DeMacedo

From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2008 5:08 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Stevenson, Allan (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Subject: review of meeting with Rep. DeMacedo

I met with Representative DeMacedo this morning regarding his interest in scheduling certain drugs in the statutes. His primary interest was in consideration of Salvia divinorum as a controlled substance. I advised him about certain problems which would arise if Salvia d. was framed in terms of the plant rather than its main psychoactive compound Salvinorin A. Because the plant has so recently become a point of interest, the literature of its taxonomy is minimal and no conventions have been established in the forensic community regarding its defining features. In addition, I alerted him that defining the substance as a plant would permit the manufacture of extracts which exclude plant matter. He agreed and will probably frame his proposed amendment on the basis of Salvinorin A in plant matter or other substrate.

He was reassured that Khat was class E in Massachusetts because its active component cathinone was scheduled as a prescription only drug, by federal law. His last concern was a consideration of the plant compound Kratom. I told him that the lab had never encountered such a material and he was satisfied this was a low priority.

Finally, I noted for him that the Commissioner of Public Health is the statutory authority regarding the consideration of drugs on the schedules and that office should be approached regarding the changes. Rep. DeMacedo assured me he would contact DPH regarding the development of the amendment.